



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,389	11/12/2003	Jean-Claude Bassot	SCP061817	9855
7590 06/26/2007 Joseph S Tripoli Thomson Multimedia Licensing Inc Patent Operations PO Box 5312 Princeton, NJ 08543-5312			EXAMINER CALLAHAN, PAUL E	
			ART UNIT 2137	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/26/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,389

Applicant(s)

BASSET ET AL.

Examiner

Paul Callahan

Art Unit

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,9,12,13 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 3-8,10,11 and 14-16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11-29-2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-17 are pending in the instant application and have been examined.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

3. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not in the form of a single paragraph. The underlined text above the body of the abstract, and the term "Figure 1" in parenthesis below it should be redacted. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 9, 12, 13, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Hendricks, US 5,682,195.

Hendricks teaches:

As for claims 1 and 17, a communication installation, in particular for the communal reception of information (abstract), of the type comprising: an input interface suitable for receiving at least one first signal emanating from a first information source (fig. 3: element 42, col. 8 lines 45-51), as well as at least first software applications (col. 11 lines 18-35, col. 13 lines 20-30), at least one receiver/decoder device (fig. 4: element 96, col. 11 lines 5-17), available to an individual user, devised so as to use the first software applications to undertake the conversion of the first signal with a view to direct use by the user (col. 11 lines 34-55), and a local server, linked, on the one hand, to the input interface and, on the other hand, to the receiver/decoder device (fig. 4 element 90, col. 11 lines 18-35), and capable of transmitting the first software applications to the receiver/decoder device of the user so as to undertake the conversion of the first signal (col. 11 lines 34-50), wherein the input interface is able moreover to receive at least one second signal emanating from a second information source, as well as second software applications (col. 13 lines 20-30), in that the receiver/decoder device is devised moreover to use the second software applications to undertake the conversion of the second signal with a view to direct use of said second signal (col. 13 lines 20-30), and in that the local server comprises a dialogue module for talking to the receiver/decoder device so as to transmit, selectively as a function of a request from a user, the first or the second software applications to the receiver/decoder device of the user (col. 11 lines 34-50, col. 13 lines 20-30), so as to undertake the conversion of the first signal or of the second signal in accordance with the request from the user (col. 11 lines 18-34).

As for claim 2, the installation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the local server comprises a harmonizer module linked to the input interface and able to put the first and second signals into a common form, while the receiver/decoder device is devised so as to undertake the conversion of a harmonized signal which exhibits said common form.

As for claim 9, the installation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the local server is devised so as furthermore to transmit software applications allowing a dialogue between the receiver/decoder device and one at least of said first and second sources, according to an interactive protocol (col. 13 lines 20-30).

As for claim 12, the installation as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and/or second signals carry information regarding television images and/or of multimedia type (col. 3 lines 27-30).

As for claim 13, the installation as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first and/or second signals are scrambled signals carrying information subject to pay-per-view (col. 2 lines 25-35), while the receiver/decoder comprises a descrambler module capable of undertaking a conversion of the first and/or second signals into descrambled signals, with the proviso of obtaining access rights (col. 2 lines 25-35).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3-8, 10, 11, and 14-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not teach the combination of features recited by the claims, particularly including:

As per claim 3, wherein the harmonizer module is devised so as to remodulate the first and second signals according to one and the same type of modulation. Claim 4 is dependent on claim 3 and is objected to on the same basis as that claim.

As per claim 5, wherein the local server comprises an output interface linked to the dialogue module so as to transmit, selectively as a function of the requests from the users, the first or second software applications to the corresponding receiver/decoder devices. Claims 6-8 are dependent on claim 5 and are objected to on the same basis as that claim.

As per claim 10, wherein the local server comprises a communication link with the first and/or the second information source, so as to transmit to the receiver/decoder

Art Unit: 2137

device, software applications chosen according to a request from the user. Claim 11 is dependent from claim 10 and is objected to on the same basis as that claim.

As per claim 14, wherein the receiver/decoder device comprises a module for managing access rights able to cooperate with the scrambler module so as to activate the descrambling of the first and/or of the second signal. Claim 15 is dependent from claim 14 and is objected to on the same basis as that claim.

As per claim 16, wherein the receiver/decoder device is devised so as to transmit to the local server a request for access rights, while the local server is devised so as to communicate said request for access rights to the first and/or second information source.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following US Patent documents teach systems of video signal processing pertinent to the applicant's disclosure.

Bacon et al. 5,440,632

Michael et al. 6,732,368

Art Unit: 2137

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul E. Callahan whose telephone number is (571) 272-3869. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise, can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is: (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



/Paul E. Callahan/
6-20-07


EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER